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# The Highlander

Thursday **November 21 2024** | Issue 667

**INSIDE: HUMANIZING THE BADGE PART 2 - PAGES 2-3**

**FREE**



## Ho, ho, ho

Santa waves to children of all ages during Minden's Santa Claus parade Nov. 16. Haliburton's is Nov. 22 and Wilberforce's is Dec. 8. See more photos on page 13. Photo by Justin Belanger.

## County postal workers part of national strike

By Mike Baker

The president of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) local 564 covering Lindsay and Haliburton County, Doug Ford, said people waiting on government cheques will receive them in the mail after the union and Canada Post struck an emergency deal last week.

More than 55,000 Canada Post workers nationwide went on a full strike Nov. 15, shutting down the country's postal system.

CUPW national president, Jan Simpson, noted in a media release last week the strike will affect millions of Canadians and businesses across the country. She told people to expect delays as holiday shopping season begins.

"Mail and parcels will not be processed or delivered for the duration of the national strike, and some post offices will be closed. Service guarantees will be impacted for items already in the postal network. No new items will be accepted until the national disruption is over," the union stated Friday.

Anything in the postal network will be secured and delivered as quickly as possible on a first-in, first-out basis once operations resume, Simpson said.

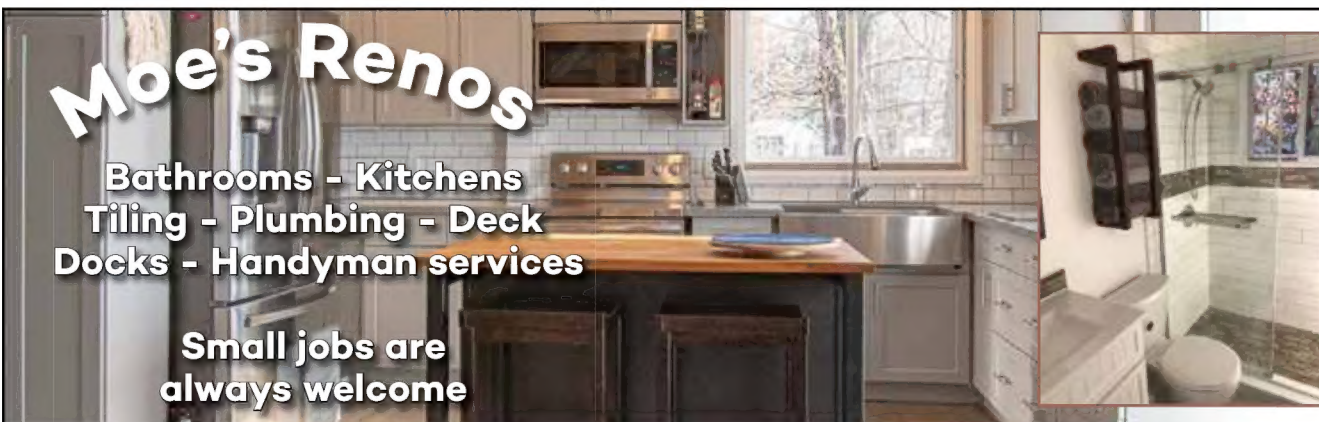
Speaking to *The Highlander* Nov. 19, Ford said the shutdown will impact everything but government cheques.

"Canada Post has sent the cheques out to the respective post offices and there is going to be a volunteer force delivering them. CUPW is going to allow members [to cross the picket line]. It'll just be a few members going out and doing the deliveries," Ford said. "People will receive their cheques – but that's it."

Canada Post said cheques were delivered Nov. 20. The local union president admitted he was surprised by the full strike, saying he expected rolling

Continued 'Latest' on page 7

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# Partnerships tackling mental health and addictions

## HIGHLANDER FEATURES

By Lisa Gervais

Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark met Andrew Hodson in 2017. At the time, Hodson was with the Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge (CMHA HKPR), as its only crisis worker.

It was before the establishment of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) in 2021, but laid the groundwork for the MCRT, which saw its first-ever OPP full-time, permanent County appointment in February of last year.

Cavanaugh-Clark recalled how Hodson, now on leave from the CMHA HKPR, and an OPP officer came to St. Paul's Anglican Church one day. The policeman had been driving down a side road between Minden and Kinmount and saw a woman huddled around a campfire, with only a tarp for shelter and a stainless steel bowl (apparently for boiling water and cooking). "And, that's all she had. She really had some mental health issues," Cavanaugh-Clark recalled in a recent interview.

Apparently, the woman had a van she used to live in, but it had been towed away. So, Hodson and the OPP officer came to the church to see if they could assist the homeless woman.

"Genuine need," Cavanaugh-Clark said of the crisis. She said Hodson and the officer had their hands somewhat tied as the woman owned the land she was living on. She was not a squatter. The church offered to try to get the woman's van back, but the OPP officer advised against it, as the woman now had no driver's license or insurance.

However, the church could get the woman's belongings from the van. They did that as well as purchase a tent and cot for her to sleep in temporarily. They also bought a cooler. Three times a week, church volunteers would visit to ensure the woman had food and water to go along with the shelter.

OPP Const. Joel Imbeau is now the police-lead on the MCRT – in conjunction with CMHA HKPR. He said he calls

upon Cavanaugh-Clark from time to time, though both say it is a last resort as the church has limited financial resources. However, Cavanaugh-Clark said it is within their mandate to help. One thing they will do is secure temporary housing at a local motel when needed.

"I trust Joel and the CMHA worker. I trust their judgement. Joel can call me. The relationship is really kind of unique," Cavanaugh-Clark said.

## Community paramedicine program

Chris Parish heads up the community paramedicine program for Haliburton County, and also has a relationship with the MCRT team, and Imbeau in particular.

Parish and his paramedics are often the MCRT's first call after police have responded to an incident and received consent from a client. The paramedics work hand-in-hand with Haliburton Highlands Health Services' Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN). Every Tuesday, Parish meets with the GAIN team "to talk about our mutual people."

"We go in and assess a patient. We're the medical piece," he said. But they do more than that. A team of two always goes in. While one assesses the patient's health, the other can do a mental health check by, for example, seeing what the person has in the refrigerator. "Is there food? Is it rotten? I don't know what it is when wives die. Men tend to live on chocolate milk. So, then, they complain about diarrhea," Parish says.

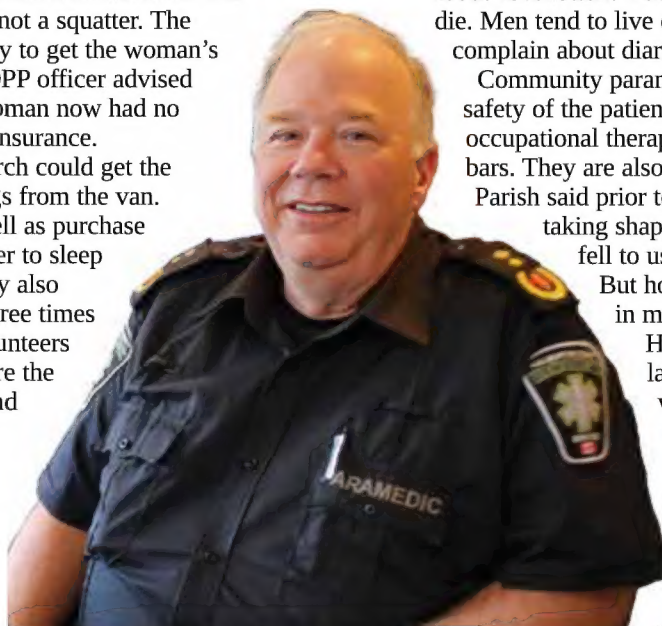
Community paramedics are also looking out for the safety of the patient. They may make a referral to an occupational therapist. Perhaps the person needs grab bars. They are also assessing cognitive health.

Parish said prior to Imbeau and the MCRT team taking shape, "the mental health piece kind of fell to us because there was nothing else."

But honestly, we aren't that well-trained in mental health."

He said since Imbeau was appointed last February, "it's just been a huge weight off our shoulders because we were doing it, but it was like, 'are we doing everything? Should we do more? Should we do less?' And now, we have experts (Joel and the CMHA worker) we can refer to."

Behind the scenes, there are a lot of phone calls between MCRT partners. "What's funny is, it all



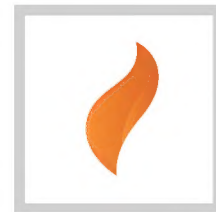
Chris Parish heads up the community paramedicine program for Haliburton County. Photo by Lisa Gervais.



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Continued from page 2

comes together at the same time. And this is Haliburton County... because Haliburton County is small town, I will get phone calls and Joel will get phone calls and neighbours will call us.”

He provides an example of someone being discharged from hospital but people being worried they won’t be able to cope at home. Folks call Parish or Imbeau to ensure someone checks in on that person.

Parish added due to the small-town nature, or perhaps the personalities of workers, they seem to be able to get consent.

Just as the MCRT wants to stop people from repeatedly calling OPP, the paramedicine program aims to keep people out of hospital. “It reduces the chance of you going back to the ER 30 per cent in the first four months, then goes down a little bit, and comes back up,” Parish said. It also reduces the time spent in hospital.

Haliburton Highlands Health Services CEO Veronica Nelson said GAIN “delivers a team approach for frail vulnerable seniors that live in the community.” She added they often get referrals from the emergency room and doctors in the County “and sometimes these clients are followed up by the OPP and other services such as community paramedicine.”

GAIN does an assessment with the client and tries to reach a family member to get more information on the patient’s trajectory, to see if they meet the criteria for dementia or other geriatric syndromes. They’ll then work with community partners to come up with a plan.

“Due to limited resources, it is beneficial for the client when we work together with our community partners, including the OPP, to provide the best outcomes for our seniors,” Nelson said.

Another stop Imbeau makes during the course of his work is local food and heat banks.

Judy MacDuff of 4Cs in Haliburton said she had worked with Imbeau and Parish in the past. She recalled them asking about getting food for a client who was struggling with mental health issues.

“Joel came up and packed her a box of food and took it down and then he came back a second time for her.” Although the woman had yet to register as a food bank client, MacDuff said she couldn’t say ‘no’ to the request.

Speaking to the MCRT, MacDuff said, “I think that’s a big help.”



OPP Const. Joel Imbeau recently presented cheques to Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) community partners – proceeds from the September Eric Nystedt memorial golf tournament. Back row, left to right: Imbeau, Denver Allore and Shaun Wylie. Middle row, left to right: Kristen Allanson, Yvette and Trevor Brauer (Special Olympics), Rev. Joan and Rev. Martha (St. Paul’s Anglican Church and thrift shop). Front, left to right, Rachel Gillooly, Central Food Network and Heat Bank Haliburton County, Jean Munroe, Minden Community Food Centre, and Susan Tromanhauser, Places for People. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

### More complex cases

Other partners Imbeau has called on include the Youth Wellness Hub operated by Point in Time in Haliburton; The YWCA shelter in Minden; A Place Called Home in Lindsay; the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto; Fourcast Addiction Services, and the list goes on and on.

Imbeau said they seem to be getting more and more complex cases all the time. He provides the example of a recent request for

a wellness check, only to find a client who had extreme mental health issues combined with a urinary tract infection. The person lived alone, recently had their landline cut, had no means of transportation and no family. The response required paramedics, food banks, and CMHA.

“I am blessed we live in Haliburton County. I couldn’t imagine doing this job in downtown Hamilton. I don’t know how you’d do it. I don’t know how you’d support someone. I don’t know how you’d get that individuality. Get that individual

to attend. Get the local partnerships. Down there (Hamilton), you don’t have time for that,” Imbeau said.

“We have a very good relationship with community partners. We also have the ability to use CMHA, which has tons of resources and facilities if clients suffer from mental illness or addiction.”

**NEXT WEEK: Meet a client**  
Last week: OPP working to ‘humanize the badge’.



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# County draft budget – 5.15 per cent levy jump

By Lisa Gervais

County staff presented a first draft of the 2025 budget Nov. 13 – with a 5.15 per cent tax rate increase – or an extra \$13 per \$100,000 of assessment for residential ratepayers if passed.

Warden Liz Danielsen noted last week was an introduction to the budget.

“The intention is to bring the budget back at our mid-December meeting (Dec. 11) for approval, unless we run into any roadblocks between now and then,” she said.

The biggest spend would go towards transportation, at more than 43 per cent. Ambulances and the community paramedicine program would require nearly 19 per cent, general administration about 16 per cent and social services and housing 11 per cent. The others (planning and development, which includes economic development and tourism; recreation and cultural services, such as the library, 911 and bylaw, each fall under 10 per cent.

CAO Gary Dyke, and director of corporate services, Andrea Robinson, told council, “the senior management team have worked diligently to develop a fiscally responsible budget that lays the groundwork for long-term growth and resilience by investing in vital projects and services while maintaining transparency and accountability for our ratepayers.”

They added the County would remain the second lowest tax collector in comparison to 13 counties within the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus. There is 1.46 per cent of assessment growth, the lowest of the EOWC counties.

As usual, wages and benefits gobble up the biggest chunk of money, at more than \$14 million. They are going up by more than half-a-million dollars, including some union wage and benefit increases. Staff are recommending hiring a mechanic, to save



County CAO Gary Dyke delivered the first draft of the budget with director of corporate services, Andrea Robinson. *File.*

money on outsourcing, and a paramedic supervisor.

There was lengthy discussion about increasing the dedicated infrastructure levy. Last year, it was one per cent. It was noted there continues to be an infrastructure funding gap. Staff recommended upping that to two per cent, but the majority of councillors thought 1.5 per cent would be more manageable for ratepayers.

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux wanted staff to have another look at the Newcastle Street building requirements to see if costs could be trimmed. She also asked if there was any movement on public transportation. Director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, said staff were in talks with regional providers and if anything financially viable came up, they would bring it to council.

In discussing the need for increased tax dollars, Dyke and Robinson cited inflation; jumps in the cost of materials and supplies, and skyrocketing costs for ambulances. They have increased bills from external organizations, such as the City of Kawartha Lakes for early learning and child care, social assistance, housing and homelessness prevention. They also pay MPAC, the library

service, the health unit, and contractors. They pay insurance and are servicing debt. They are looking to borrow \$1.2 million to renovate the former land registry office at 12 Newcastle St; and also, do work at 11 Newcastle.

In terms of reserves, if council approves all commitments, they’d be left with more than \$9 million.

Dyke said they had prioritized... “making sure we’re still providing services required for our citizens, but not only that, that they’re efficiently done and effectively done in a cost-effective manner.”

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<p><b>SG NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA ANNOUNCEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>It's not too late to sign your child up for our ½ day PA Day camp on Friday November 22nd – visit <a href="http://www.mindenhill.ca">www.mindenhill.ca</a> to get started.</li><li>There is an adjusted drop-in schedule on Friday November 22nd due to the PA Day<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There will be no Public Skating on Sunday November 24th from 2:30pm-4:00pm</li><li>There will be no Adult Stating on Tuesday November 26th from 9:00am-9:50am</li></ul></li></ul>	<p><b>COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL &amp; IN-PERSON</b></p> <p>Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>November 21 – Special Council Meeting</li><li>November 28 – Regular Council Meeting</li><li>December 12 – Regular Council Meeting</li></ul> <p>Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal. Please note that there is only one meeting in December.</p> <p><b>Notice of Location Change for Regular Council Meeting</b> Due to renovations taking place in the Minden Hills Council Chambers, the November 21st Special Council Meeting will be held in the <b>County of Haliburton's Council Chambers located at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden.</b></p>	<p><b>MINDEN HILLS CULTURE CENTRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This is the final week for exhibit <i>Burner Herzog</i> by local artists Gary Blundell and Victoria Ward. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm.</li><li>The Gallery will be closed from November 26 to December 4. We reopen on December 5 with an exhibit from our permanent collection, featuring André Lapine (1866-1952).</li><li>Join us on November 22 for our PA Day Open House! Explore Nature's Place with interactive activities for all ages, and seasonal crafts led by our instructors from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Don't miss the free screening of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (2000) starting at 1:00 PM, co-hosted by the MHCC and the HCPL – Minden Branch. Light refreshments will be provided, and you are welcome to bring your own snacks.</li><li>The UFO Craft Group will be meeting on Friday, November 22 from 1pm to 3pm.</li></ul> <p>For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: <a href="mailto:culturalcentre@mindenhill.ca">culturalcentre@mindenhill.ca</a> or call 705-286-3763.</p>
<p><b>NOTICE: SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL &amp; PUBLIC MEETING – 2025 BUDGET PROCESS</b></p> <p><b>TAKE NOTICE</b> that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 9:00 am during its Special Council Meeting regarding the 2025 Budget Process. Members of the Public are welcome to participate and provide their comments. <b>PLEASE NOTE</b> that this meeting will be held in the County of Haliburton's Council Chambers located at 11 Newcastle Street, Minden.</p> <p>To view the full notice and for more information visit our website.</p>	<p><b>DELAYED OFFICE OPENING</b></p> <p>The following facilities will have delayed opening hours on Tuesday, November 26, 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ownship of Minden Hills Municipal Office (7 Milne St.);</li><li>SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena – Administration Office (55 Parkside St.); and</li><li>Minden Hills Fire - Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)</li></ul> <p>Business will resume as normal at 9:45 a.m. on this date.</p> <p>To view the full notice and for more information visit our website.</p>	<p><b>HOLIDAY FOOD AND TOY DRIVE AT THE SCOTCH LINE LANDFILL</b></p> <p>Holiday Food and Toy Drive taking place at the Scotch Line Landfill November 24, 2024. All donations go directly to the Minden Community Food Centre to help ensure everyone has a great Christmas.</p>





# Minimum wage falls short across region

By Lisa Gervais

The Ontario Living Wage Network (OLWN) released its latest report Nov. 18, indicating people in their 'east' region, which includes Haliburton County, would need to make \$21.65 an hour to make ends meet.

The report comes on the heels of a May study by the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPR), which put the Highlands' figure at \$20.60 an hour as of 2023.

With minimum wage in the province climbing to \$17.20 an hour Oct. 1, both documents point to a living wage gap in our region.

The report's author is the OLWN's Anne Coleman. She said while inflation had "calmed" in the past year, this year's rates have still increased by an average of 3.4 per cent.

She said it's "mainly due to rising costs for rent in our province. Inflation of food costs may have calmed but still remain high relative to earlier years."

SIRCH Community Services executive director Gena

Robertson runs one of the only Ontario Living Wage Network-certified organizations in the Highlands, ensuring people are paid a living wage.

"If you look at the social determinants of health, which is what we try and do in most of our programs, and also the broader picture of what is poverty, or what helps with poverty reduction, employment is a big one," Robertson said.

She added, "employment of any kind is good, but if you work all day and still can't pay the bills, that's not great. And we see that every day."

According to the OLWN, the GTA continues to have the highest living wage rate at \$26 an hour, up from \$25.05. The lowest, at \$19.50, up from \$18.85, is The London-

Elgin-Oxford region.

"There is still no place in Ontario where you could work (minimum wage) full-time and cover all your expenses," Coleman said.

She added the organization's mandate is to sign up certified living wage employers across Ontario. For certification, employees must make at least a local living wage, and many see a raise as a result.

The living wage calculation includes a modest basket of goods and services that are used to determine the annual expenses required by a household. The basic necessities included in the basket of goods accounts for a large portion of the annual expenses. The costs of food and shelter are two of the biggest expenses in the living wage calculation. These costs increased by over 18 per cent compared to general inflation of 13.4 per cent between 2018 and 2022. Higher fuel prices are another contributor.

The OLWN uses single adults, single parents, and families of four. They calculated a family of four spends \$12,541

on food annually in the east region, with \$6,022 for a single parent, and \$4,288 for a single person.

Shelter costs were pegged at \$22,539 for a family of four; \$20,055 for a single parent, and \$17,223 for a person living on their own.

They also incorporated the cost of clothing and footwear, transportation, medical, life and critical illness costs, cell and internet, child care, and other expenses. They noted there are government transfers that also impact living wages.

Robertson said she would encourage employers to seek certification; while recognizing it is not always easy for small businesses or non-profits. She would not want increased wages to lead to layoffs.

*"Employment of any kind is good, but if you work all day and still can't pay the bills, that's not great. And we see that every day."*

**Gena Robertson,  
SIRCH**



Gena Robertson's SIRCH pays an Ontario Living wage. *File.*

In May, the HKPR District Health Unit released its 2023 Nutritious Food Basket Report.

The report highlights the struggles faced by low-income families in the City of Kawartha Lakes, County of Haliburton, and Northumberland County to pay for necessities because incomes and social assistance rates are not keeping up with rising costs.

In the report, HKPR compares incomes and

expenses of several household scenarios to show how much money would be left over for families and individuals after paying for housing and food. In some cases, those expenses alone exceed income, with not enough money left to pay for other basic needs.

This report found that 12.9 per cent of households in Haliburton County are considered low income and struggled to pay for rent, bills, and healthy food.



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# Report: opioid emergencies down in County

By Mike Baker

The number of ER visits due to an opioid overdose is down in Haliburton County from peak COVID-19 numbers, while the Highlands was the only region within Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Pine Ridge district (HKPR) not to record a drug-related death last year.

A new situational assessment report, compiled by the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Northumberland Drug Strategy (HKLN) and the HKPR health unit, was released Oct. 29, analyzing the impacts of the drug poisoning crisis in the region. It looks at localized trends in drug use and poisonings, while breaking down the four-pillar approach used to address the crisis in HKLN.

Dane Record, HKLN chair, said the four localized pillars focus on prevention and education, treatment, harm reduction, and community safety.

"The drug poisoning crisis is both an urban and rural crisis that exists everywhere and affects all of us," said Dr. Natalie Bocking, HKPR medical officer of health. "Our response needs to be collaborative; we must recognize there is not one strategy that will solve this, and we must work together at multiple levels to address the drug crisis."

In the report, co-authors Record, and HKPR staffers Kate Hall and Vidya Sunil note the drug crisis is fueled by the distribution of unregulated opioids – a class of drug commonly used to reduce pain. Synthetic

opioids, such as fentanyl, methadone, oxycodone, and hydromorphone are being mass produced illegally and sold on the street for non-medical consumption, they state.

Since 2016, Health Canada has been tracking opioid-related deaths nationwide – posting stats annually on a virtual public dashboard. Between January 2016 and March 2024, there have been 47,162 apparent opioid toxicity deaths.

The authors note data from early 2023 suggests most overdoses occur in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario – predominantly affecting males aged 20 to 59. Fentanyl was involved in over 80 per cent of cases.

Last year, there were 221 opioid-related emergency department visits in HKPR – with nine in Haliburton County.

It was pointed out the region's ER visitation rate has increased 12 per cent over the last five years for drug-related emergencies. Per 100,000 people in the region, the report found 136.5 required urgent medical attention following opioid use – this is higher than the provincial average of 81.8.

For the County, rates trended up from 2019 to 2021 but saw a significant drop in 2022. The incidence rate increased from 36.1 in 2019 to 192.7 in 2021, before significantly decreasing in 2022 to 31.6. The number jumped to 40.1 in 2023.

There were 35 hospitalizations across the region in 2023, including two in Haliburton County. Between 2018 and 2022, there were

173 opioid-related deaths in HKPR, with a further 36 deaths confirmed in 2023. In Haliburton, there was one death in 2019, three in 2020, eight in 2021, three in 2022, and none in 2023.

Record, Hall and Sunil suggest the epidemic is at least partially due to an increased demand for opioids to treat injuries. The report states one out of five Canadians are seeking health care for chronic pain. In 2023 there were 1,332,482 individuals in Ontario using opioids for pain management.

They say one way to reduce harms associated with substance use is through education and interventions in early childhood and adolescence. Record noted adverse experiences while growing up can have long-lasting impacts on developing brains and can increase the likelihood of substance use in later life.

The team said there's no "one size fits all" approach to treatment, but noted there are opioid substitution therapies and supports provided by organizations like the John Howard Society, Fourcast, and the Canadian Mental Health Association. There's no publicly funded residential withdrawal management or treatment programs in the region.

It was suggested engaging people with lived experience of substance use is the best way of reaching those struggling and forms an important part of the Drug Strategy's solution.



HKPR's Dr. Natalie Bocking said communities must work together to address the ongoing drug poisoning crisis. *File.*

"Co-design harm reduction and treatment programs, pathways of care... resource local drug strategy groups to develop proper engagement strategies... we need to address the urgency for support," the report reads.

"Advocate for the creation of a provincial drug strategy task force; standardize drug poisoning alerts and response protocols to bring them in line with alerts about foodborne illnesses and infectious diseases; call for access to real-time data on drug poisonings."

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**Ladies' Shopping Night**

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# HHHSF brings in prickly partner

By Mike Baker

There's a new fluffy addition to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) family – and executive director, Melanie Klodt Wong, says it's one of the cutest arrivals yet.

Each year in the lead up to the holidays, the Foundation releases a stuffed animal for sale to the community, with proceeds topping up the annual 'Believe in the Magic of Giving' festive fundraiser. A tradition since 1998, the animals have brought in more than \$165,000.

Not to be confused with a hedgehog – this year's stuffy is an as-yet unnamed porcupine. Klodt Wong said an annual naming contest among HHHS staff will wrap up this week.

"We have lots of fun internally – staff throw out names and then whichever name is picked, that person receives a stuffed toy to take home," Klodt Wong said. "We'll be announcing the name next week."

The animal will go on sale Nov. 29. The cost is \$25.

Klodt Wong said they make for great stocking stuffers – so too do 50/50 lottery tickets, with sales for the usual big year-end draw already going well. The pot is currently sitting at almost \$2,400 with an entire month to go – the deadline to buy is Dec. 30. Last year's winner walked away with over \$11,000, Klodt Wong said.

There are two early bird draws – Nov. 22 and Dec. 15, with winners getting \$500. Tickets can be purchased online at [hhhsf5050.ca](http://hhhsf5050.ca).

Despite recently completing the months-long 'Here for You in the Highlands' campaign to upgrade diagnostic imaging at the Haliburton hospital, an effort that brought in \$6.225 million, Klodt Wong said the



HHHS Foundation executive director Melanie Klodt Wong shows off the as-yet unnamed stuffed animal headlining the annual 'Believe in the Magic of Giving' holiday fundraising campaign. Photo by Mike Baker.

Christmas push will assist with more day-to-day things.

"'Here for You' was about getting specific equipment we needed to boost services at HHHS and move us forward. We needed CT, we needed these major changes and upgrades in diagnostics, but that's only part of what we do. We've got community support services, long-term care, and hospital services that constantly require support. We can't lose sight of that," she said.

The Foundation typically receives a laundry list of 'wants' from hospital staff – this year, they will be focusing on specialist equipment for the emergency department in Haliburton, refurbishing rooms at Hyland Crest and Highland Wood long-term care homes and supporting Meals on Wheels and patient transportation.

During the last fiscal year, the Foundation subsidized 4,435 meals to seniors in

the community and partially funded approximately 39,000 kilometres worth of trips for patients attending medical and mental health appointments outside of the County.

Klodt Wong said the Foundation is hoping to eclipse last year's 'Believe in the Magic of Giving' total of \$250,000.

"We know we need quite a bit to cover some of the equipment we need for the ER. Even basic, smaller things can run \$15,000 to \$30,000. So, we need to raise a lot more than that," she said.

With the 'Here for You in the Highlands' campaign wrapped, Klodt Wong said all purchases have been made – a new x-ray will arrive in the ER in early 2025, mammography services should be online by the end of January, while a new ultrasound machine was delivered Nov. 18.

## Latest offer 11.5 per cent raise hike

Continued from page 1

strikes first. This would have seen delivery in main hubs like Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and Vancouver stopped but would have provided a reprieve for rural areas like Haliburton County.

He laid the blame directly at the feet of Canada Post, which said they would lock out all CUPW employees if a rolling strike was called. The union notified the employer of a rolling strike last week.

"Really, the union's hands were tied. Nobody knows why Canada Post made their decision, but they did. We gave them a strike notice for rotating, but they decided to counter, basically saying if we rotate, they're locking us out completely. So CUPW said 'OK, we'll go,'" Ford said.

He added, "When CUPW is faced with a choice where we can't do rotating, it's either we go, or we don't. I know it wasn't our first option. We didn't want to have to go out on strike like this."

County-based workers have maintained a morning presence in front of the Haliburton and Minden post offices since last week. Ford said that will continue.

He said strikers are united – and there seems to be support from the public, too.

"We're dug in, we've made our stand and we're sticking to it," Ford said. "We're hearing lots of positive messages, despite the [expected] delays."

Workers have been without a contract since Dec. 31, 2023. Canada Post's latest offer included annual wage increases amounting to 11.5 per cent over the next four years, while also including protections for defined benefit and pensions plans for current employees.

Ford said the contract wanted to create a two-tiered pay scale for employees, which the union is against. He also wants to hear more about Canada Post's plans to transition to a seven-day delivery system, which the company says it needs to do to compete with companies like Amazon.

The Crown corporation has reported losses of \$490 million through the first six months of 2024 and \$3 billion since 2018.

### Parcel delivery up in air

Minden resident Linda Borthwick said she's concerned about gifts she's purchased for family overseas arriving in time for

Christmas. She has grandchildren in the UK and routinely uses Canada Post to mail them goodies from home.

"I've asked what this strike means – I'm told if the parcels were processed and sent out before [the action] then I'll be OK, but I don't know at this point if they have," Borthwick said.

Since she posted items using International Parcel – which doesn't provide any timed delivery guarantee, or tracking/delivery information – she has no idea where the parcels are. She said she posted them Nov. 8.

With the federal government thus far keeping out of negotiations, with no indication a mandate forcing strikers back to work is forthcoming, Ford is holding out hope for a negotiated contract. He said a new mediator was brought in this week.

"According to politicians, they're not going to get involved – that is different than in the past," Ford said. "Hopefully, this mediator can get some luck and mediate both sides to an agreement as soon as possible. Unfortunately, there's not a lot of news right now. Everybody is keeping their cards tight to the chest."

A MESSAGE FROM



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Join us for our  
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November 28, 2024  
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More details at  
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Located at 5152  
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## TheHighlander

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### OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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# Wages for long-term gain



By Lisa Gervais

Looking at the Ontario Living Wage Network’s certified living wage employer map – there is only one listing for Haliburton County – SIRCH Community Services.

Others in our region include Kawartha Credit Unions in Kinmount and Bancroft and Fivepoint Landscaping near Dwight.

That means that SIRCH is paying what is deemed a living wage for this part of Ontario – a wage now listed at \$21.65 an hour – according to a Nov. 18 report.

SIRCH, which works with vulnerable sectors, has recognized the gap between what is deemed a living wage, and Ontario’s minimum wage. It rose Oct. 1 but only to \$17.20 an hour – nearly \$4.50 less than what the Ontario Living Wage Network calculates is necessary to make ends meet in our region.

We’re not sure if other Haliburton County employers are paying a living wage. They may very well be but simply have not been certified. It may be in their best interests to do so. Employees refer to these maps before making decisions about accepting employment.

If I were only now looking to move to the Highlands for work, I would need at least

a guaranteed living wage to cover rent, or a mortgage, food, transportation (because I would need a car), clothing and footwear, medical, life and critical illness costs, cell and internet, child care, and other expenses.

I would have to have won the lotto on affordable accommodation, mind you, to make ends meet.

This is why you might be seeing the same faces pop up at different places of work. I know a woman who works two, maybe three jobs in order to survive in Haliburton County. She isn’t the first, and won’t be the last. I also know people who have tried to make a go of it here, but have left for Lindsay, Peterborough and other areas where they could live with lower rents and lower food prices.

I know it is a dilemma for employers. How can they possibly up their wages to match inflation, and Ontario Living Wage Network calculations, when they are struggling to keep afloat? I’d ask them if they are having trouble finding workers, or constantly hiring, only to lose employees. Perhaps upping that minimum wage \$4.50 an hour might save them money in the long run. Another

\$35.60-a-day could lead to better employee retention; less lost time to recruitment and training. It is something to think about.

When it comes to rent, we can also appeal to landlords. Surely the rents you are charging now are covering the cost of inflation? If you were to consider reductions, chances are you would get tenants likely to stick around for awhile. There would not be a revolving door of folks who discover they cannot afford your rents anymore, and move on. And, surely, you, too, would benefit from us having a more stable and sustainable workforce in the Highlands. Fewer ‘help wanted’ signs mean we get the goods and services we want as residents.

So, if you are paying a living wage, bravo. Keep it up. If you are not, please consider it. The short-term pain of upping wages could lead to long-term gains for your business, and for all of us.

## HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

# Family ‘blessed’ to make County home

By Susan Tromanhauser

Andrea Hogan had everything she thought she should; a home in Hamilton with her husband and two young daughters. They both had good jobs, which provided benefits and a pension. They also had frequent family getaways to Haliburton to visit Hogan’s father who retired to the Ingoldsby area. They purchased a fixer-upper house near the Stanhope airport as part of their retirement plan.

The young family made the trek each weekend to work on the house and enjoy the quiet life of the Highlands. Everything was going according to plan until Hogan had a eureka moment. “Why wait until retirement to live the life you want?” Hogan and her husband sold their home in Hamilton, moved the family to the Highlands, and “haven’t looked back.”

Before becoming parents, Hogan and her husband were travellers. Her husband immigrated to Canada from Ireland, planning to be here one year – until he met his future wife. Together, they spent time in Melbourne, Tasmania as well as the Margaret River area of Australia. They returned to Canada to start their family.

As a constituency assistant for a member of provincial parliament in Hamilton, Hogan advanced her administrative and people skills; she transferred those skills to her new jobs. As a server at the Mill Pond in

Carnarvon, she juggles the crowd of regular customers with a smile and also helps with administrative tasks for her husband’s arborist business.

Together they built their “homestead,” housing bunnies and chickens with a long-term goal of lambs. Their garden also provides a food supply. The family spends their spare time enjoying hiking and canoeing, the fresh air and good water. Hogan is involved in the community with her daughters, ages 10 and 12, busy with music and dance. Last summer, they were in the Highlands Summer Festival production of *The Miracle Worker* and this December will be part of *The Nutcracker*. Hogan is co-chair of her daughters’ school council, involved with a major fundraising campaign to raise \$300,000 to build an accessible play structure shared between Stuart Baker and J. Douglas Hodgson.

Hogan acknowledges there are more options for services in the city. She can no longer run to a dollar store for a forgotten item and there are fewer restaurant choices.

Hogan is still looking for a family doctor but with “no pressing ailments” is waiting patiently. Sometimes she gets homesick as she misses her mother and brother who still reside in Hamilton; but she has no regrets making the move to the Highlands as she is “much happier here.” While she takes trips to Haliburton five times a week, she is more thoughtful and plans ahead for shopping.



Andrea Hogan. Submitted.

Hogan puts a positive spin on it saying “it frees up more time for family.” Hogan feels they made the best decision raising their daughters in Haliburton County. “It is such a great community and lifestyle; we are very blessed. No regrets.”

## SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to [editor@thehighlander.ca](mailto:editor@thehighlander.ca)



LETTERS

Minnicock Road tower will improve service

Dear editor,

It is unfortunate that *The Highlander* would publish such a biased article written by Mike Baker.

It is disappointing that Canadian media is gravitating in the direction of the U.S. media with biased, one-sided reporting playing to its base.

Mr. Butz led the opposition to installation of a tower on Minnicock Road which is mainly a NIMBY-driven effort. I took the time to go to the municipal office and get a copy of the petition submitted in opposition of the tower when it was before council. A close examination of it showed many of the signatories dubious at best with the same hand writing for multiple names, children included, and names of people who lived as far away as Hamilton.

If Mike Baker had even listened to the council meetings related to the tower, where Mr. Butz presented his remote site on Telephone Bay Road, he would have known what the response from Rogers was: the location on Minnicock Road was selected because it was more densely populated and could serve more people. The location on Telephone Bay Road was lightly populated and the tower would not serve enough people.

The other side of this, as Mike Baker calls ‘a disaster’, is that cell phone service provides an essential emergency contact service to people using the roads and who live in the area. It also supports the government initiative to provide internet connectivity to a large part of the Ontario population. But then Mr. Butz is OK without the service that other people need, because, after all, he has two bars on his cell phone.

Mark Boyd  
Highlands East

Impact of generosity

Dear editor,

I am wondering if your readers have considered the significance of their contributions during this pivotal time of year.

Every single dollar they donate to our Rotary projects throughout the year is reinvested back into the community, supporting local non-profits that make a real difference.

So, when you spot the Minden Rotary celebrity clowns - dressed up and spreading joy in a parade, distributing little red noses, and pulling a ‘red wagon with a big red nose’ - please open your hearts and give generously. We’re more than happy to collect any loose change you can spare.

Think about that jar of coins you have at home; the one where you toss your keys, or that bowl of change that sits on your dresser. Each bit of spare change adds up, transforming into meals for the food bank, warmth for families during the cold winter months, and projects that uplift children and enhance our community.

We invite you to bring your change or your wallet to the upcoming Santa Claus parade in Haliburton. When you see the ‘big red nose’ on the red wagon, drop your coins or cash inside as it passes by, or hand it to a Minden Rotary celebrity clown.

As a token of our appreciation, we’ll gift you a little red nose. If you happen to forget your coins, don’t worry. We have a convenient donation button on our website, [mindenrotary.ca](http://mindenrotary.ca). When making an online donation, please let us know a celebrity clown sent you. Your support means the world to us.

Thank you for being a part of our mission to create positive change in our community.

Sally Moore  
Leader Minden Rotary celebrity clowns

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



Top: Stuart Kerridge sent this photo of a buck resting in his front yard on Harmony Road. Above: Lisa Gervais caught this owl hanging out on a road sign on Hwy. 118 Nov. 19.



# Storyteller to join friends at library fundraiser

By Lisa Gervais

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) guest speaker RH Thomson is adamant he is not a writer.

The visiting actor and author will be at the Haliburton Legion Nov. 24 as part of HCPL's 16th annual library fundraiser.

Perhaps best known by some for his roles in *Road to Avonlea* and *Anne with an E*, the author of *By the Ghost Light: Wars, Memory and Families*, and *The Lost Boys* tells *The Highlander*, "I'm not a writer... I'm a storyteller."

In the process of penning *Ghost Light*, Thomson said he realized, "I don't have any literary templates for this. Yeah, I read books but I'm not a writer. So, the only templates for storytelling I have are theatre. I know a lot about that because I've done it for 50 years."

He explains that in his storytelling process, "I'm thinking theatrically as I tell the story onstage. I think that's what started to appear for me, instead of saying 'what great non-fiction book shall I mirror?'"

He admits he didn't do well in English literature. "But how stories are told in theatres is in my bones, and you can tell them well, and you can engage people,

or you can bore them, or leave them confused. Those are the things running me through the book."

Thomson said he uses metaphor.

"My family is offstage in this book as I'm writing it. I know in the wings around me they are standing there and they're watching me because I'm talking about them. And I invite some of them onstage into the book and I don't want others to come into the book. And this one character, Great Aunt Isabelle, she says, 'no, I'm going to appear. I know you don't want me to appear, but I'm going to appear' so it gives me a way to find a dynamic to talk about them respectfully because I don't want to put words in their mouths, but they have to be seen and tell their stories."

Speaking to his 50 years of acting in theatre, TV, and movies, Thomson says, "if you're an actor and haven't been on TV in a year, you're just gone from people's (minds)."

Having said that, he adds, "I have people



RH Thomson is coming Nov. 24. Submitted.

come up to me and say I saw you in *Hamlet* in 1986, and they tell me about the show and how it's changed them."

He shares an anecdote of an American political figure who is a big fan of *Ticket to Heaven*, a 1981 Canadian drama about a man who is recruited into a religious cult and his life in the group. Thomson played a character named Linc Strunc.

The politician was a big fan who watched the movie regularly. He asked Thomson to read a script – in character – for his Boston lawyer friend's birthday.

"This is off the deep end," Thomson says with a chuckle. "It does lead to very strange places."

He's reminded it's leading to Haliburton County this Sunday, and Thomson says, "it's good that it did."

"I have been [up that way]. I jump around a lot, whether I'm jumping around to New Brunswick, or your neck of the woods, or Winnipeg... the jobs take you many, many places, which is neat. I love it. It's always

somewhere different, always a different place, and it's always a different perspective – getting to know another part of Ontario or Canada or whatever."

He said one thread he usually speaks about is, "who is the storyteller in each family? Are you the storyteller in your family? And who is keeping the stories. If it isn't you, who is?"

"And then we talk a bit about story, and how it is a very odd and unique form of memory." He added storytelling can have an agenda, and can sometimes trap or lead you somewhere.

For example, he said, "different cultures tell war stories very, very differently. And we would be unwise to ignore that because we are in the middle of at least two wars... not us personally, but watching them played out... Canadians in both Gaza and Ukraine."

*The event begins at 1 p.m. with a silent auction/refreshments; Thomson speaks at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 cash or cheque only. Tickets may be purchased at The Minden Library Book Nook, the first and third Fridays of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by contacting Pat Brezina 705-286-1958, patbrezina@hotmail.com or Sue Sisson at 705-286-2000, sedgeone@gmail.com.*



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# Burtch celebrates 40

By Mike Baker

It's been four decades of "utter chaos" at the helm of one of the County's busiest construction firms, but Gary Burtch told *The Highlander* recently he wouldn't have it any other way.

G.J. Burtch Construction Enterprises recently celebrated its 40th anniversary in the community. Whether managing high-end custom cottage builds, fixing decks, or replacing a long-time customer's door, Burtch said he's approached every job the same way, embracing his "nothing is too much, or impossible" mantra.

"Respect is always top of mind – any time we're doing a job for someone, it doesn't matter if it's a year-long multi-million-dollar project or a quick afternoon fix, people receive high-quality service with a smile," Burtch said.

It's the first thing he learned from his mentor, Grant Rae, when Burtch arrived in the County in 1977. An import from Long Branch, a neighbourhood in Etobicoke, he connected with Rae after dropping out of university and moving north. Rae, who had a hardware store in town, introduced Burtch to John Beachli, who took him on as a labourer.

Burtch started "at the end of a shovel" while working with Beachli, learning from various tradespeople in the area. Within a few years, Burtch had gotten to the point where Rae thought he was better off going on his own – so he did.

"I was 30 when I started the company – Grant basically told me 'it's time'. I was scared out of my mind, I had a wife and a three-year-old son and here I was giving up a stable job to start fresh," Burtch said.

Rae helped him – offering a stable supply of jobs while Burtch got on his feet. He expanded quickly, earning his carpenters license in 1984. By the late 80s, the operation had grown to about 14 employees. It was tough going – Burtch sacrificed a lot to get his business off the ground, but looking back on the fruits of his labour, he says it was all worth it.

Today, the company is a turnkey home builder – managing projects from beginning to end. Burtch's crew typically deals with framing new builds and dealing with all woodworking detail, hiring in specialists elsewhere. He regularly partners with many other County-based tradespeople – including on a custom chalet-style home Burtch built in 2023. The team was recently recognized by the Ontario Home Builders Association for a best-in-province custom 3,000 sq. ft. home completed south of Minden.

"The perfect way to celebrate 40 years – that is such a prestigious award. To beat out other bigger builders from the big cities is really meaningful. It shows me what I've been preaching for decades, that we have incredible talent here in Haliburton County," Burtch said.

He's done his best to spread that expertise across the province – Burtch was instrumental in updating guidelines in the Ontario Building Code for SG-7, improving safety practices for guardrail installations for housing and small buildings.

He served on Ontario's Building Code Commission for 17 years, was on the board of directors for the Ontario Home Builders



Gary Burtch and his son, Andrew, show off the award they recently received. *Submitted.*

Association for 30 years, and was one of the founding members of the Haliburton County Home Builder Association when it launched in 1991. Burtch has also taught carpentry at Haliburton School of Art + Design.

Reflecting on some of the major jobs he's been involved in, Burtch recalls constructing the Dysart fire hall some 30 years ago, and working alongside fellow contractor Shane Sisson to rebuild Sir Sam's Inn following a fire in 1994. He remembers spending an entire summer cutting down trees and fixing roofs after a tornado touched down near Kennisis Lake in the late 90s.

That was a particularly challenging time – Burtch needed to be in constant contact with his office to find out where he was heading next, but cell phone service was non-existent in the County.

"I had to keep driving from the job site to Kennisis Lake Marina so I could use the pay phone to see where I was headed next. I'd do that multiple times a day," Burtch said.

He's seen a lot of change.

"My first cottage was 800 sq. ft. and built on piers. Indoor plumbing was an option back then, so was insulation. Now, we're building 3,000 sq. ft. plus mega homes fitted with interior automation. We did one place recently where the owner can control everything in his property from his home office – that's much, much different from when I started," Burtch said.

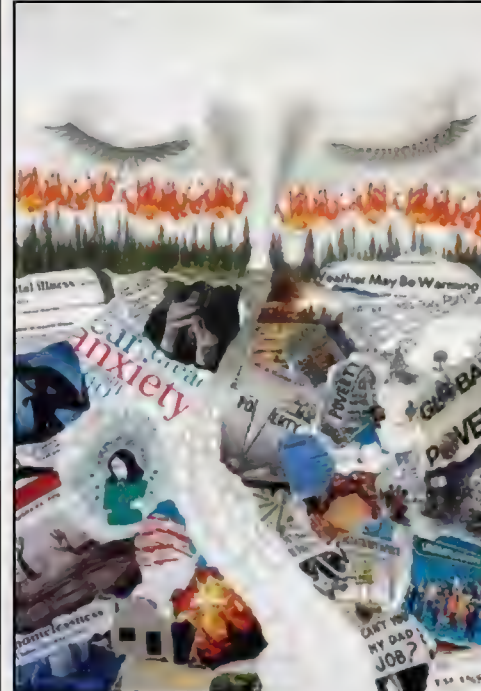
While he doesn't ever see himself completely retiring, Burtch has started to scale back. He sold the business to his son, Andrew, last December though retains a position as a director. He still gets to the office at 6:30 a.m. most days.

"It's been one hell of a ride – my success is because of my employees. I've had lots who have worked with me for 15, 25, 35 years. We went through three recessions together, two of them brutal, but we always found a way to make it work. I've always felt we were a close-knit family," Burtch said.

"The greatest joy I have is that I'm able to pass this on to my son. The company started at my kitchen table, transferred down to my basement, and now we're on Mallard Road with 1,200 sq. ft. of office space and the biggest woodworking shop in the County," Burtch said.

## SAFE & WELL 2

An exhibition presented by the  
HHSS 9/10 Visual Arts and  
JDHES 7B Classes



**Opening Reception**  
Friday, November 29  
4:00-5:30pm

Rails End Gallery  
and Art Centre

23 York Street,  
Haliburton

705-457-2330  
[railsendgallery.com](http://railsendgallery.com)

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## HOLIDAY HAMPER

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

For Minden + Area families in need of assistance during holidays

### CALL-IN APPLICATIONS

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December 2nd - 6th  
FROM 10AM UNTIL 2PM

**Call 705-286-6400**

Please call at these times to guarantee supplies and appointment time.

### HAMPER PICKUP

Wednesday, December 18th • 1-3pm  
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### Municipality of Dysart et al Notice of Special Meeting

2025 Budget Projects and Priorities

Take notice that there will be a **Special Meeting** of Council on **Friday, December 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.** The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss projects and priorities for the 2025 Budget. The Municipality has also set the following dates (if required) to review the Budget:

January 10, 2025 and February 14, 2025

**These meetings will be livestreamed. You can view the proceedings by visiting the Dysart YouTube page:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVWZxsvf8VCyDf04uwjCJ6g>

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk



The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA) is pleased to invite members and the public to our **Annual General Meeting** to be held on **November 24, 2024** at the Haliburton Fish Hatchery Meeting Hall (6712 Gelert Rd.) between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

A summary of the HHOA's activities for the past year will be shared as well as the last fiscal year's financial report. The opportunity for invitations of prospective HHOA Board directors will take place as well. This commitment leads to becoming involved in the workings of the HHOA and assisting in maintaining Haliburton County as a premier Outdoor Activity destination in the Province of Ontario and beyond.

At this time COVID protocols are not mandatory but personal choice of precautions are respected.

**Hope to see you on November 24th!**

**THEHIGHLANDER.CA**



## Dance, food and music

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH3) presented a Diwali festival of lights Nov. 16 at the Haliburton Legion. It was an evening of dance, food, music and performances. DH3 has a tradition of hosting community dance events for all ages, including Salsa Night in Haliburton and Kolomeijka for Ukraine. Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a major Hindu festival held each fall fostering a sense of unity, love, and gratitude. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance through various cultural, religious, and social practices. It's a time for new beginnings, happiness, offerings of food and Indian sweets, dancing and bringing good luck.

Top: Paromita Kar dancing. Above left: Angelica Marett does a traditional Indian dance. Above right: Alex Iarocci on guitar.  
Photos by Lisa Gervais.





Here comes Santa Claus

The town of Minden Hills hosted its annual Santa Claus parade Nov 16. The streets were lined with happy holiday seekers to see the floats, get into the Christmas spirit and of course... catch a glimpse of Santa Claus. Starting at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, the procession of floats, walkers and dancers made their way to Bobcaygeon Road, down towards Newcastle Street and finished at the township administration office parking lot. A beautiful day brought out the crowds to enjoy the parade and then head over to the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for Christmas in the Village and a chance to meet Santa.

Top left: A couple of firefighters hand out candy and take donations. Top middle: The Minden Curling Club spreading holiday cheer. Inset: A happy dog saying hello to folks. Above left: The big moment the kids have been waiting for all year. Above: Looking down at the parade on Bobcaygeon Road towards town. Above right: Ol' St. Nick strutting his stuff. Right top 1: Mrs. Claus waves to the kids of all ages. Right top 2: A couple of nice Grinches proceed the Whoville float. Inset: Rudolph guiding 'Santa's sleigh.' Below: The synchronized moves of Skyline Dance Studio entertain the crowd. Bottom: Lazy bones himself... The Grinch. Bottom right: Ho Ho Ho, Jingle Bells! Santa rings out cheer through the air. *Photos by Justin Belanger.*





# Red Hawks fall in COSSA semi-finals

By Mike Baker

While there wasn't a COSSA championship-winning celebration when the final buzzer sounded on the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) Red Hawks junior girls' basketball season Nov. 13, coach Mike Rieger said he felt like a winner.

The young team fell to a semi-final defeat at the Central Ontario Secondary School Association finals, in Norwood, losing to the Central Hastings Centurions 45-30.

"We were probably one of the favourite heading in, so it was a tough loss. It was one of those where, I think if we played it over a bunch of times, we probably win more than we lose. But it just wasn't our day, which happens sometimes," Rieger said.

Playing against a team that has faced superior competition all season – Rieger said the Bay of Quinte division is much stronger than the Kawartha – the coach believed the Centurions managed the game, and the occasion, better than his young charges.

"We had the edge in terms of individual talent, but you could tell Central Hastings had much more experience playing together as a team. There was a lot of pressure from them. They were able to keep it up for 32 minutes, building a lead on us that, ultimately, the girls were not able to overcome," Rieger added.

Despite losing its last game, the coach believes the season was a success. The girls finished in second place in Kawartha Division B with a 4-2 record, earning regular season wins over Fenelon Falls, LCVI from Lindsay, and the Kenner Rams (twice), while losing to Holy Cross and Crestwood.

The eight-player squad earned a second



The Red Hawks junior girls basketball Kawartha A champions, in no order: Haydyn Aggett, Jordyn Hurd, Mackenzie Millburn, Addy Parish, Kaydence Hollands, Veronica Heasman, Sarah Teljeur, Mazey Robinson and coaches Mike Rieger, Meghan Armstrong and Renato D'Ambrosio. *Submitted.*

successive Kawartha A championship Nov. 7, defeating the Rams 72-6 in a blowout win.

"We had some great moments. It's another year of progress for the basketball program at HHSS," Rieger said.

With a nine-player senior team also playing a full season, Rieger said this was the first year in a while the school has boasted two teams. There was a junior outfit in 2023 and a varsity squad, comprised of junior and senior players, in 2022.

He noted four members of the junior

team will be moving up to senior next year, meaning he'll be relying on some new talent coming in to replace them. Rieger said his goal is to build a program that can be competitive at all levels – even when facing larger schools.

"Women's basketball is exploding right now – who knows what the next couple of years will look like. The visibility of college basketball and the WNBA, it shows girls what's out there. It helps to generate interest," Rieger said. "Most of these girls

are still learning the sport, so to have had the success we have is great – but we also know there's room to improve, which is exciting."

He said the team stayed to watch the senior squads duking it out for COSSA gold, which was an eye-opener.

"It's high-level basketball, the next step up in terms of pressure and execution. Seeing that gave the girls a hunger, I think, to get there one day. To be able to compete," Rieger added.

## Coach touts volleyball resurgence at Hal High

By Mike Baker

High school volleyball coaches Justin Collins and Mike Gaffney believe, three years after committing to rebuilding a Red Hawks boys' program, they're onto a winner.

While the 2024 season wrapped Nov. 14 without a championship – the senior boys' team fell to a three-set semi-final defeat to Belleville's Quinte Christian High School at the Central Ontario Secondary School Association (COSSA) championships – Collins said his young warriors made significant strides this year.

"The boys competed hard and I'm happy with that – we've had a small team all year with only nine players. We've had guys face so many obstacles, stepping into roles they weren't familiar with, but still having fun and finding some success," Collins said.

The Red Hawks finished second in the Kawartha A division this season, ahead of rivals from Port Hope and St. Thomas Aquinas secondary schools, but behind Peterborough's Kenner Rams.

Collins said the two teams developed a bit of a rivalry this year. Despite strong performances across three games, the Red

Hawks lost each match-up – including a heartbreaker Nov. 7 in the Kawartha A championship game.

The Red Hawks were aiming to follow-up a gold medal at the junior level last season with senior honours this time around but dropped three straight sets to the Rams – 25-10, 25-18, and 25-22.

"We always knew it would be a challenge this year – the net goes up in senior, you're playing against stronger teams. Kenner was full of fourth and fifth-year players, so we had 16-year-olds playing against 18-year-olds. It's a big jump," Collins said.

That his side kept things competitive at both the local and regional championships is a sign Collins' and Gaffney's methods are working.

"We've got guys working really hard to get better every week. This is a big group of Grade 9s who came in two years ago and wanted to play volleyball – for most, it was brand new. I told them then I wanted to transform them from boys that play volleyball into volleyball players," Collins said. "After that [performance against Kenner], I told them they've come so far, they're not just volleyball players, they're volleyball competitors. The growth has been outstanding."



Ben McMahon prepares to serve during the Red Hawks' 2-1 defeat to the Kenner Rams in the Kawartha A Championship final Nov. 7. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

After a season filled with setbacks, Collins believes his players showed great character to compete up to the final whistle.

With a junior program that boasted 16 players this year, Collins believes the future is bright for Red Hawks volleyball.

"The numbers tell us kids are getting excited about volleyball, that kids want to play. For so long we were a hockey school,

or a football school – those sports aren't happening right now," he said. "We're in a situation where kids are coming and wanting to play, wanting to compete for championships."

"Volleyball doesn't have a long standing tradition at HHSS, but we're definitely seeing a bit of a resurgence with the program," Collins added.



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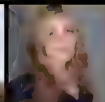
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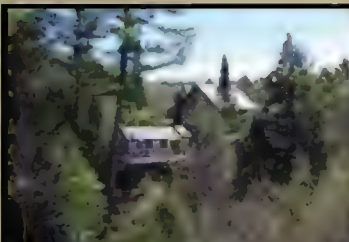
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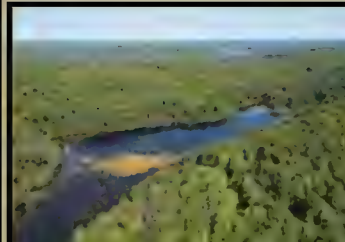
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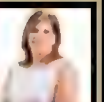
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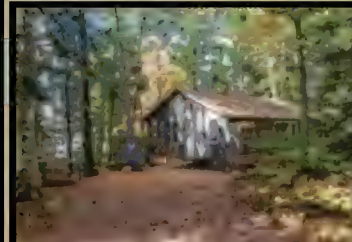
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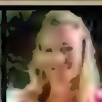
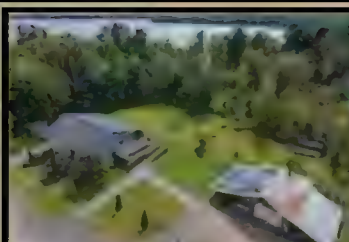
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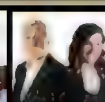
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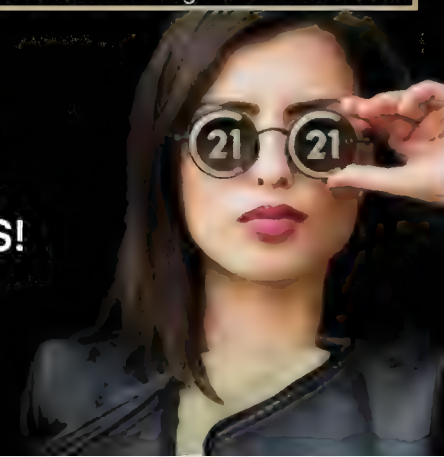


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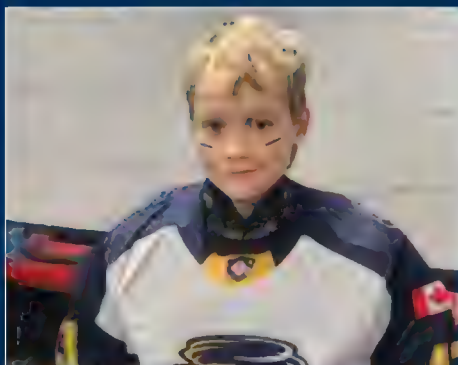
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# STARS of the WEEK



**JULIAN MARDUS**

Laser-focus, positive attitude and incredible reflexes resulted in a series of outstanding saves.



**COHEN CARPENTER**

Skill and determination saw Cohen earn five goals throughout the course of the tournament.



**PARKER FESSEY**

Scored two goals in the semi-final game and prevented goals with his strong back-checking abilities.



Good sportsmanship among the teams before the start of the game. Photo by Justin Belanger.

## Storm make semi-finals

The CarQuest Minden U11 Highland Storm local league team showcased its skill and determination at the 2024 Silver Stick Tournament hosted in Haliburton and Minden this past weekend (Nov. 16-17).

A well-fought, four-game battle saw the Highland Storm proceed to the semi-finals. Highlights of the team's effort include exceptional goaltending, strong defensive shutdowns and a collaborative offensive output.

In its first match, the team played a tight game, tying the Ennismore Eagles 3-3. Raelyn Adlam pocketed the first goal of the tournament, followed by tallies from Grayson Thomas and Cohen Carpenter.

The second game saw the Storm win against Brock Wild 3-2, thanks to a strong collective effort and a hat-trick by Carpenter.

Game three was the Storm's first loss of the tournament against Mariposa Lightning (6-2). This game saw Grayson Pelly score his first goal and Carpenter rack up his fourth of the tournament.

In a nail-biting semi-final game, the Storm fought back from a 2-0 deficit against the Sturgeon Lake Thunder. Parker Fessey scored two goals, Cohen secured his fifth of the tournament and Pelley locked in his second.

Despite a 5-4 loss in the semi-final game, coaches Garwood Thomas, Noah Adlam, Sean Irvine and Jordan Hunt are incredibly proud of the team's strong work ethic, determination and support of one another and look forward to what the remainder of the 2024-25 season has in store for this group of talented kids. Submitted.

### Nov. 12

- U13 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Mariposa 7-2 W

### Nov. 13

- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Sturgeon 3-1 L

### Nov. 15

- U15 REP Haliburton Timbermart vs Millbrook 5-5 T
- U15 LL The Pepper Mill Steak House vs Millbrook 3-0 L
- U18 LL Tom Prentice & Sons vs Brock 2-0 W

### Nov. 16

- U13 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Millbrook 5-1 W
- U13 LL Curry Chevrolet vs Mariposa 10-2 W

### Nov. 17

- U11 REP Cottage Country Building Supplies vs Durham
- U15 REP Haliburton Timbermart vs Brock 10-0 W

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Forward Alex Bradshaw loses his helmet after laying a big hit during the third period of Saturday's 6-0 defeat to the Collingwood Blues. Photo by Justin Belanger.

# Huskies drop out of 'Top 20' after losses

By Mike Baker

Haliburton County Huskies sharpshooter Deandres De Jesus believes a little adversity might be just what's needed for this young team to get its season back on track after dropping two games in OJHL action last week.

The blue and white lost a barnburner on home ice Nov. 14, surrendering eight goals to the visiting Wellington Dukes in an 8-5 defeat. The team followed up with a 6-0 loss to the Collingwood Blues in Minden on Saturday (Nov. 16).

After a blistering 11-game win streak propelled the Huskies to the top of the OJHL East Division standings last month, the team has lost four of six games in November – including the past three straight.

"It's been a bit of a challenging week – we've lost a few games now after having a great start. We've got to figure things out," De Jesus said. "We got into a bit of a special teams battle with Wellington and Collingwood and we've got to do better – we've got to up the goals, create good looks. But overall, I think we've got to work harder."

"These teams know we are a top team; they know we've been in the national rankings. They upped their game, and we didn't. They outworked us and that showed in the final scores," he added.

With the league's top players and coaches – including Huskies bench boss Ryan Ramsay and seven of his charges – in Smiths Falls this week for the 'Battle of Ontario' showcase between the OJHL and Central Canada Hockey League (CCHL), there's been a pause in both leagues' schedules.

As such, the remaining Huskies players have had a full week to iron out some kinks before play resumes Nov. 25 for a road tilt with rival Cobourg Cougars.

"For a lot of our guys this is their first year in the league, so they're still developing. It's hard trying to find your way in this league," said De Jesus, a three-year veteran. As one of the older heads in the locker room, he said, "I tell them not to get discouraged. Don't put your head down when you make a mistake – use it as motivation to keep going, to keep getting better."

The Huskies had to withstand a relentless offensive barrage

from the Dukes, who fired 41 pucks on goal across the 60 minutes – outshooting the home side in all three periods.

De Jesus enjoyed a four-point night – scoring his second hat-trick of the season to take his goal total to 18 in 24 games. Nathan Poole and Adam Smeeton also netted for the Huskies.

It was a tough night for the team's goaltending tandem Corbin Votary and Carter Nadon. Starter Votary was yanked after allowing three goals on 13 shots in the opening frame, but Nadon didn't fare much better – allowing four goals on 27 shots the rest of the way.

There wasn't much for the 435 fans inside S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena to cheer for in Saturday's drubbing, as the Huskies were shutout by Collingwood – last season's OJHL champions.

The game resembled more of a wrestling match in the second and third periods, with the Huskies racking up 45 penalty minutes, and the Blues 47 PIMs. The Huskies went 2-6 on the penalty kill and 0-7 on the powerplay.

## Next up

The Cougars are up next and De Jesus believes a match-up with the Huskies fiercest rivals is the perfect opportunity for he and his teammates to steady the ship.

In their only other meeting this season, on Nov. 2, the Huskies dropped a 5-2 result in Minden, their first defeat in front of home fans since opening night Sept. 7. The Cougars scored two shorthanded goals that day to condemn the blue and white to defeat.

"This is a chance for us to get one back right away – I think we were the better team first time around. We had a tough time with special teams, but we've been working on that all week. At this point, we know what we need to do" De Jesus said.

The Huskies play again on the road Nov. 29, against the Pickering Panthers, before returning home Nov. 30 against the Aurora Tigers. Centreman Vincent Gazquez, acquired from the Collingwood Blues this week, is expected to draft straight into the Huskies lineup.



# Dixon 'grateful still here to tell the tale'

By Lisa Gervais

It's been nearly 30 years since Haliburton County's Carl Dixon and his band Coney Hatch last performed in Lindsay. And, yet, despite numerous gigs since, he still remembers it "vividly."

"We were at the Lindsay Fair outside in summer time, and it was a captive audience of the young people of Lindsay and surrounding towns who wanted to get out and do something on a Friday night, so there we were on the grandstand," he recalled.

Dixon said this latest show, Nov. 29 at the Flato Academy Theatre, came about as an increasing number of requests do - via the internet. A person from a Bad Company tribute band got a hold of him and said he wanted to put on a show, and would Coney Hatch support the night. The other musician would open the show to get exposure and then Coney Hatch would take over.

"So many gigs these days come about in roundabout fashion," Dixon said.

He anticipates an audience ranging from people in their 70s - friends of Dixon and his wife Helen Parker from the County - "thrilled I am finally doing a show within driving distance," but also fans who grew up with the band. Their target audience was always people five to seven years younger than them.

"So, they're now all appropriately well-heeled to go and do whatever they want; some of them are retired and then their children come along. We have a nice range

of ages whenever we do a show."

Dixon believes quality music endures, and when the band gets back together, they have a lot of fun.

"We just laugh our heads off. We've been friends for so many years, though ups and downs, and breakups and reunions. Really, the only reason the band got back together again after years of not playing was because of my accident."

Dixon was critically injured in a car accident in Australia in 2008, and is emotional as he adds, "the old gang said, 'we have to do this for Carl'." He refers to the "history, and long road of experiences together and there are things that only we'll, as a unit, ever know."

He recalled how in the early years, band members were competitive, but as time went by, they learned how to better co-exist and appreciate each others' strengths.

Asked what else he is up to; Dixon had a show in Boston this week. He continues to do inspirational speaking, including an upcoming brain injury conference in Toronto. He's at the Orillia Opera House in early December. Forty years on, the band, with three original members, are still rocking and touring. Coney Hatch has just returned from playing festivals in the UK and France and released a double vinyl album *Postcard from Germany*. His career does offer "immense variety" with individual gigs in the Highlands, too.

In his own songwriting, he is trying to



Carl Dixon strums an instrumental guitar at his home in Haliburton County.  
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

express positivity and hope. He is also fine-tuning his inspirational talks for a post-COVID audience.

"I'm so grateful for this community and to have the life I have here and be embraced by

the community the way [I have been].

"I'm just grateful that I'm still here to tell the tale, and have new experiences and also figure out how to go forward more strongly."

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Floyd Hall injects \$25K into campaign

The HHHS Foundation’s executive director, Melanie Klodt Wong, said they were grateful to Floyd Hall Ltd. for its generous support over the years - and their recent “impactful” donation of \$25,000 to the ‘Here for You Capital Campaign’ in support of diagnostic imaging.

David Blodgett, HHHSF chair, and from the Floyd Hall team: Cherri McElwain, Matt Hamilton, Tammy Thompson, Glenn Hall, Andrew Hall, Mitchell Miller and Julie Hall. Submitted.



Students pay respects

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) held a pair of Remembrance Day assemblies Nov. 11, with students putting together a series of performances and presentations to honour veterans. Leanne Edmunds began proceedings by singing the national anthem, with monologues performed by Willow Brown and Jessica McCreedy-Debruin, a scene performed by the drama club, music from the HHSS choir, Psalms of Peace performed by the Grade 9 extended French class, and a slideshow showing photos and information on all local soldiers lost during the First and Second World Wars. (Mike Baker).

Acadia Saulnier and Annabelle Borgdorff laid wreaths and led the audience for a moment of silence and reflection. Photo by Christine Carr.



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**Birthday blessings...**

Highlands East fire chief Chris Baughman accepts a \$1,000 donation for volunteer firefighters in Wilberforce Oct. 24. He is pictured with Stuart Gourley and Ian Jack, and Gary Mount, district chief for stations 2 and 4. The money came from a birthday party concert by the band Endangered Species. *Submitted.*



**The lift is up...**

The Royal Canadian Legion in Haliburton recently held a ribbon-cutting for its new elevator. Robert Heeps and Jodi Timgren joined Chris Briggs, right, and Mike Waller, left, to mark the occasion. "It was a great day for the members of the Legion and the community that visit us," legion president Waller said.

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### EVENTS

**Nov. 22, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
Christmas luncheon at Highland Hills United Church, located at 21 Newcastle St. in Minden. Enjoy soup, sandwiches, goodies, tea or coffee, and fellowship. By donation. There will also be a bake sale starting at 11 a.m. Everyone welcome.

**Nov. 22**  
County Music Association of Ontario is hosting a Holly Jolly Christmas Show at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton, immediately following the Haliburton Santa Claus Parade. Featuring Leah Daniels and Beverley Mahood singing a collection of holiday classics. Tickets are \$35, with children 12 and under \$15. Available at [cmaontario.ca](http://cmaontario.ca), or by calling 647-231-2626. CMAO is a non-profit supporting grassroots country artists across Ontario.

**Nov. 23, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
Haliburton Winter Fair at A.J. LaRue Arena and the Haliburton Legion. Enjoy a Christmas market, Santa's workshop, and cookie decorating until 1 p.m., classic Christmas cartoon screenings from 1 to 3 p.m. and free community skating from 3 to 5 p.m. All supplies are provided free to children 12 and under, with everyone getting to take their creations home. All are welcome.

**Nov. 24, 1 to 3 p.m.**  
Support the Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library's 16th annual library fundraiser at the Haliburton Legion, featuring special guest R.H. Thomson, author of *By the Ghost Light*. Thomson will be available to discuss his book, as well as chat about his acting roles in *Road to Avonlea* and *Murdoch Mysteries*. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Minden Book Nook or by contacting Pat Brezina at 705-286-1958, or Sue Sisson at 705-286-2000. Proceeds support library programs throughout the County.

**Nov. 28, 9 a.m.**  
The Trojan Horse Tour visits Haliburton County as part of a province-wide tour, organized by CUPE's Ontario Council of Hospital Unions and the Ontario Health Coalition, calling for an end to privatization of hospital surgeries and diagnostic tests. Join guest speakers by Minden Town Hall until 10:30 a.m. An event is also happening in Haliburton, in Head Lake Park from 1 to 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bonnie Roe at 705-457-6579.

**Nov. 29, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**  
Christmas luncheon at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, located at 7 Bobcaygeon Rd. in Minden. Soup, sandwiches, desserts, coffee and tea. By donation. All are welcome.

**Nov. 29, 6 p.m.**  
Join the Township of Algonquin Highlands in celebrating the festive season with a community Christmas tree-lighting. The first of three events will take place outside the township office at 1123 North Shore Rd., with others planned for Dorset, at Lions Centennial Park, on Dec. 1 at 4 p.m., and the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Each event will include carols, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa Claus. Bring your own mug!

**Nov. 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
Holiday craft sale at Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce (2249 Loop Rd.). Vendors will be selling great things, including Christmas items, gifts, and baked goods. Lunch will be available. For more information, contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598, or email [wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca](mailto:wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca).

**Dec. 1, 3 p.m.**  
Highlands Festival Singers presents 'Wishing You a Merry Christmas', a concert directed by Melissa Stephens. Taking place at Haliburton United Church at 10 George Street. Tickets are \$20, available at Master's Book Store in Haliburton and the Minden Pharmasave. A second performance is happening Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. For children, youth and family packages email [highlandsfestivalsingers@gmail.com](mailto:highlandsfestivalsingers@gmail.com).

**Have a non-profit event you want advertised?**  
email [mike@thehighlander.ca](mailto:mike@thehighlander.ca).

### ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton weekly activities**

**Mondays:** Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league starting soon, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.

**Tuesdays:** League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.

**Wednesdays:** Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall. Bingo is back. There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.

**Thursdays:** General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

**Fridays:** Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.

**Saturdays:** 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

**Clubroom hours:** Mon closed, Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519 Cobocnuk**

**Second Monday of the month:** General meeting - 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesdays:** Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.

**First Wednesday of the month:** Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.

**Saturdays:** Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce**

**Mon:** 7 to 10 p.m.

**Wed:** 2 to 6 p.m.

**Thurs:** 2 to 6 p.m.

**Fri:** 2 to 11 p.m.

**Sat:** 2 to 9 p.m.

**Sun:** Special events only

Seniors' 55+ lunch Nov. 22 at noon. Cost is \$15 per person. Call Denise Butler at 705-488-8865 to reserve a spot.

Fish and chips Nov. 29, 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$15 for one piece of fish, or \$20 for two pieces.

**Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden**

**Monday - Thursday:** Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.

**Friday** Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.

**Saturday** all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541

**Weekly activities:**

Karaoke: call for dates

Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.

Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.



# Master gardeners bring beauty to death's door

By Mike Baker

Volunteers from the Haliburton County Master Gardeners (HCMG) have established a three-phase plan to beautify a new green burial section at St. Stephen's Cemetery, with Algonquin Highlands council supporting the effort.

"HCMG are excited about this project and what it will do for the Highlands," group member, Carolyn Langdon, told council Nov. 7. "This is a new opportunity for municipalities to further 'green' their assets and reduce their carbon footprint.

Volunteers have been working on the plan since last spring, Langdon said, with about 60 hours of donated time used to develop a site plan proposal. Workers also spent time on-site for in-person inspections and to test soil quality, which Langdon said is "very, very poor.

"It is sand and gravel with little organic matter – it is so poor it doesn't support the growth of turf grass in many places," Langdon said. "We can assume it hasn't been top dressed or had any type of fertilizer in the entire history of the cemetery."

She noted the presence of invasive weeds, such as hawk weed, is also an indicator of poor soil, lacking in texture and nutrients.

The plan includes a recommendation to bring in topsoil and woodchips to rebuild and nourish the soil, Langdon said.

The beautification will take part in three phases – the first around a recently-installed gazebo in the northern portion of the section, which HCMG hopes to complete next spring. They want to plant 150 small trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, with an estimated cost of \$5,100. This is mostly for materials, with HCMG donating time to complete the work.

Phase two, proposed for 2026, will see 25 tree and shrub saplings and 50 native wild plants put in along a 15-foot setback near the eastern property line, away from any proposed grave sites. This carries an estimated cost of \$2,600.

A third phase, slated for 2027 and beyond, will see another 25 tree and shrub saplings and 50 native wild plants dispersed throughout the 6,000 sq. ft. space that will house the 156 green burial grave plots. Langdon said the plants will be installed as row sections are completed, with 12 graves

per row. All sites will be topped with four inches of wood chips, to further encourage soil regeneration.

HCMG has proposed 24 plant and tree types and species for the area, including: mountain ash, white spruce, white pine, eastern white cedar, burr oak, butternut, pagoda dogwood, highbush cranberry, nannyberry, common ninebark, American elderberry, snowberry, meadowsweet, spicebush, Virginia creeper, native bittersweet vine, liatris, New England aster, black eyed Susan, meadow sundrops, pale purple coneflower, lanceleaf coreopsis, pearly everlasting, and little bluestem grass.

Langdon said there would be a dense tree canopy covering the site within 10 years.

"Reduced mowing and increased woodland cover will create a more complex range of habitats, which will have the effect of sequestering carbon, providing a vegetative buffer from the noise and dust of Buckslide Road, and restoring degraded and compacted soil," Langdon said.

She added, "additionally, a treed space will provide visitors a place of tranquility and respite from exposure to the elements created by an open space cemetery."

Mayor Liz Danielsen said she was shocked to see the scope of the proposed works, saying it far exceeded her expectations when council approved exploring beautification last winter. She acknowledged, with HCMG carrying out much of the work, there would need to be policies developed for planting on and donating to the site.

After HCMG recommended installing a pea gravel base around the gazebo, to improve accessibility, Danielsen said work in that area should be paused until public works staff has an opportunity to weigh in. There was also concern over leaving enough room for the potential establishment of a columbarium – a structure that houses urns containing cremated remains – and memorial stone.

Langdon noted new plants will need to be watered for a few weeks after being planted, necessitating a change to the township's green burial bylaw, which stated no watering. She also recommended public works staff leave things like tree twigs and leaves alone while maintaining the site.

"That's natural fertilizer for all the plants,"



Haliburton County Master Gardeners Merryn Camphausen, Carolyn Langdon, Ruth Treloar, and Deb Barnhart at St. Stephen's Cemetery. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Langdon said.

Deputy mayor Jennifer Dailloux said she would be in favour of that, lauding HCMG for the work they've put in.

"I really love what's being proposed. We've been talking about a wildflower meadow since we began this conversation – this is the Algonquin Highlands version of a naturalized

burial space," she said. "This is an excellent example of how natural burial could transpire for our region."

St. Stephen's is the only cemetery site in the County where green burials are permitted, with plots available to the public as of spring 2025.



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## Notice of Special Council Meetings – 2025 Budget

**The Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills is preparing its 2025 Municipal Budget.**

**Council at its November 21, 2024, Special Council meeting will receive an overview of the Draft Budget, input from the Public, and approve Water and Wastewater Rates.**

The Adoption of the Water and Sewer rates will be considered at the November 28, 2024, Regular Council meeting.

Council will continue to consider the budget at several upcoming meetings

- **Tuesday, January 14, 2025:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Fire Department; Public Works Department; and Administration.
- **Thursday, January 16, 2025:** Operating and Capital Budget review for the Community Services Department; Planning Department and Building Department.
- **Tuesday, February 4, 2025:** Adopt and Finalize the 2025 Budget.

**Please note that dates are subject to change and are dependant on deliberation discussion and direction.**

Supported material including the Budget Book will be provided on the agenda(s) located on the CivicWeb portal site.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vicki Bull, Clerk  
Township of Minden Hills  
705-286-1260 ext. 515  
vbull@mindenhills.ca



## SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

### THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS

**Take Notice** that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on November 27, 2024, at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands Ontario.

#### Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 21 021 000 04310 0000; ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS; PIN 39100-0405 (LT); File No. 23-32; **Minimum Tender Amount: \$7,285.54**

**Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, availability of road access, or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers.**

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act.

A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available on line at [www.OntarioTaxSales.ca](http://www.OntarioTaxSales.ca) or [www.algonquinhighlands.ca](http://www.algonquinhighlands.ca) or you may contact Karen Mintz, Tax Administrator, The Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands, 1123 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands ON K0M 1S0, Phone: 705-489-2379 Ext. 323, Email: [kmintz@algonquinhighlands.ca](mailto:kmintz@algonquinhighlands.ca)



## Notice of Complete Applications and Public Meetings Concerning Zoning By-Law Amendments

**Take Notice** that the Township of Minden Hills has received complete applications to amend the Township's Zoning By-law.

**And Take Notice** that the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a **Public Meeting**, as required under the Planning Act. Any member of the public may speak in favour, or opposition to, the proposed amendment during the Public Meeting.

#### Date and Location of Public Meetings

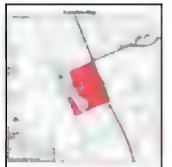
Date: Thursday, December 12, 2024

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Hybrid Meeting (In-person and Electronic via Zoom)

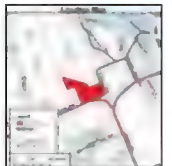
The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to consider zoning by-law amendment applications **PLZBA2024016** and **PLZBA2024062** pursuant to Section 34 of the Planning Act. The Public Meeting is an opportunity for Council to hear and consider comments related to the proposed amendment. The zoning by-law amendment applications for Public Meeting are listed below:

**PLZBA2024016** - Part Lot 14, Concession A, Geographic Township of Lutterworth, being 5373 County Road 121 on Howland Lake (see Key Map).



**Purpose and Effect:** The subject property is currently zoned 'Rural (RU)' and is located within the Waterfront and Rural designation of the Township's Official Plan. The proposed zoning by-law amendment would serve to rezone a portion of the subject lands from 'Rural (RU)' to 'Recreational Commercial Exception (C3-E)' zone, to permit a children's camp with certain site-specific provisions. Portions of the subject lands will also be rezoned to 'Hazard Land (HZ)' to protect the natural heritage features identified in an Environmental Impact Study prepared to support the application.

**PLZBA2024062** - Part Lot 13, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon, being vacant lands having roll number 4616-042-000-11200 (see Key Map).



**Purpose and Effect:** The subject property is currently zoned 'Rural (RU)' and is located within the Rural designation of the Township's Official Plan. The zoning by-law is submitted to fulfill a condition of consent application H-033-24 and H-034-24 and would serve to rezone the proposed severed parcels from 'Rural (RU)' to 'Rural Residential Exception (RR-E)' zone, to recognize site-specific provisions. Portions of the subject lands will also be rezoned to 'Hazard Lands (HZ)' to protect the natural heritage features identified in a Site Evaluation Report prepared in relation to the consent application.

**To Watch:** Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting in person can do so by attending the Township Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden. Members of the Public wishing to watch the meeting virtually can do so by joining the **Meeting Live Stream Link on YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@townshipofmindenhills4716>

**To Participate in Person:** Members of the public wishing to participate and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting must: pre-register by emailing [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca) by Wednesday December 11th before 4:00 PM or by registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM in the **Township Council Chambers, 7 Milne Street, Minden.**

**To Participate via Zoom** on the Web or by Telephone please email [admin@mindenhills.ca](mailto:admin@mindenhills.ca) by Wednesday December 11th before 4:00 PM to obtain login information.

**If attending virtually, please log-on 30 minutes before the meeting.** Once registered, participants will automatically be placed into a holding room and brought into the meeting as permitted by the Chair.

**Written Submissions** either in support of or opposition to the application must be received prior to the Public Meeting and can be submitted to [adougherty@mindenhills.ca](mailto:adougherty@mindenhills.ca)

**Please Note:** We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. **Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting the Township website at:** <https://www.mindenhills.ca/council/>

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

**Additional Information** regarding the proposed Amendment is available to the public for inspection at the Municipal Office located at 7 Milne Street by appointment or on the Township website. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at [adougherty@mindenhills.ca](mailto:adougherty@mindenhills.ca) or by phone at 705-286-1260 (ext. 506).

**Any Person** may attend the public meeting and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

**If a person or public body** would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

**If a person or public body** does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Minden Hills before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

**If You Wish to Be Notified** of the decision of the Township of Minden Hills in respect to the proposed zoning by-law amendment, you must submit a written request to the Township of Minden Hills. For more information about this matter, including information about preserving your appeal rights, contact the undersigned at [adougherty@mindenhills.ca](mailto:adougherty@mindenhills.ca)

**Accessibility:** The Township of Minden Hills is committed to providing services as set out in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. If you have accessibility needs and require alternative formats or other accommodations, please contact the undersigned.

**Privacy Disclosure:** As one of the purposes of the Planning Act is to provide for planning processes that are open and accessible, all written submissions, documents, correspondence, e-mails or other communications (including your name and address) form part of the public record and may be disclosed/made available by the Township as deemed appropriate, including anyone requesting such information. Please note that by submitting any of this information, you are providing the Township with your consent to use and disclose this information as part of the planning process.

Amanda Dougherty, Manager of Planning  
7 Milne Street, P.O. Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0



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	1	B	2	R	3	A	4	Y	5	S		6	A	7	P	8	E		9	S	10	T	11	O	12	W
13	P	R	E	R	E	Q						14	H	E	S		15	I	T	A	N	T				
16	R	I	D	E	A	U						17	A	U	S	P	I	C	E	S						
18	A	D	M	I	R	E	R		19							20	E	U	R	O	S					
21	D	A	U				22	N	A	S	C	E	N	T			25	C	T	R						
27	O	L	D		28	S			29	M	A	I	M				30	S	H	O	E					
					31	P		32	E	I			33	C	U	R		34	A	T	I	N	G			
36	T	I	D	I	E	S		39	T			40	S	E	R	A	P	E	S							
41	S	N	I	T	C	H	E		42	S		43	D	I	F											
44	P	D	A	S					45	L	O	C	H			47	F	E	S	T						
51	S	A	B			52	F		53	E	L	I	N	E	S		54	S		55	G	P	A			
		56	N	O	M	E	N						58	E	A	T		59	S	O	U	T				
60	A	G	L	I	T	T		61	E	R					63	D	O	T	I	M	E					
64	B	E	I	N	A	R	U	T							65	E	R	A	S	E	R					
66	O	R	C	A			67	Y	R	S					68	D	E	B	T	S						

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	D	O	S	T		5	J	E	W	E	L		10	A	B	A	13	S
14	O	N	T	O		15	A	N	I	M	A		16	H	A	S	P	
17	M	E	E	K		18	P	A	T	C	H		19	A	L	S	O	
20	I	S	R		21	L	E	C	T	E	R	22	N		23	B	E	T
24	N	E	E	D	I		26	T	Y	E		27	A	H	O	S	T	
29	O	T	O	O	L	E						31	A	S	E	A	S	Y
					32	C	A	N	33	A	D	35	A	D	A	Y		
36	G	A	G		39	C	O	L	O	N	E	L		40	P	D	42	Q
43	E	X	I	T		44			45	L	T	D		46	P	O	E	T
47	M	E	L	R	O	S	E		50	U	R	G	E	N	C	Y		
					53	L	U	C	K	Y		54	P	E	N	N	Y	
55	M	A	I	T	A	I			57	P	A	S	T	I	T		59	
60	E	I	G	H	T	D	A	L	M	A	T	I	A	N	S			
64	A	L	A	I		65	O	H	O	L	Y		66	V	I	C	K	
67	S	S	N	S		68	O	I	N	K	S		69	E	L	L	S	

3	8	7	9	2	4	6	5	1
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5	1	9	6	7	3	4	2	8
1	2	5	4	9	6	3	8	7
6	9	3	5	8	7	2	1	4
8	7	4	1	3	2	5	6	9
2	3	8	7	5	9	1	4	6
9	4	1	2	6	8	7	3	5
7	5	6	3	4	1	8	9	2

## OBITUARY



### In Loving Memory of Doreen Marshall

Taken home to be with her Lord on November 3, 2024 at Southlake residential Care Village, Newmarket.

She was predeceased by her husband Glenn (1984) and is now reunited in love. Doreen was the cherished mother of Sharon Paterson (Doug), Joanne Godward (Dave), Janice Jackson (Andy Masters). She was the adoring Nan to Heather (Mark), Heidi (Rob), Carolyn (Grant), Katie (Mattias), Krista (Ryan), Kevin (Linda), Jeff (Angie), Kylah (Kam), Patrick (Lindsay), who all brought her so much joy. She was also the loving great grandmother to 17 great grandchildren. Her smile would light up when any of them entered the room. Doreen was also married to Jack Davidson for 28 years. They were Snowbirds who shared many happy times in Panama City Beach Florida.

Doreen had the official title of "The Nan" to countless families on Horseshoe Lake where she and Glenn started cottaging in 1959. The cottage brought us so many fun times as a family. Mom loved dancing, wine, playing cards, wine, knitting, sewing, crocheting, wine, socializing with friends and family. Our hearts are broken but at peace knowing she is free of pain. You will be so missed mom. Thanks for all the wonderful memories.

Cremation has taken place and a private family burial will follow. Small Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Donations in Doreen's memory can be made to the Minden Community Food Centre (Minden Food Bank) if so desired and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

Special thanks to Monk's Funeral Home and to Kirsten for all her help.



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## NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - **Sundays** - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. **Mondays** - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist church. **Wednesdays** - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: **Thursdays** 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and **Mondays** 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every **Thursday** from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building, 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit [www.cloana.org](http://www.cloana.org) or call 1-888-811-3887

## HELP WANTED



## Staanworth

**Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation provides housing for seniors and families in 3 locations in the village of Minden. We are hiring an Administrative Assistant (part-time 22.5 hours per week)**

This position is responsible for maintaining the Corporation's financial and administrative records.

The primary duties will include maintaining payroll, accounts payable, rent collection, general ledger, human resource records and assisting with tenant relations. A detailed job description is available upon request.

The successful applicant will have experience in **bookkeeping** and strong computer skills with knowledge of **Excel**. Familiarity with **NewViews Accounting software** and Community Housing administration is an asset. A Vulnerable Sector Check is also required.

This position includes employer paid benefits after 3 months (medical, dental, vision and life insurance). Eligible to participate in the OMERS pension plan. The wage will be \$22-\$30/hour based on experience. Position to commence January 2025.

Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. Dec 13, 2024 to: Staانworth Non-Profit Housing, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, KOM 2K0 or emailed to [manager@staانworth.ca](mailto:manager@staانworth.ca)

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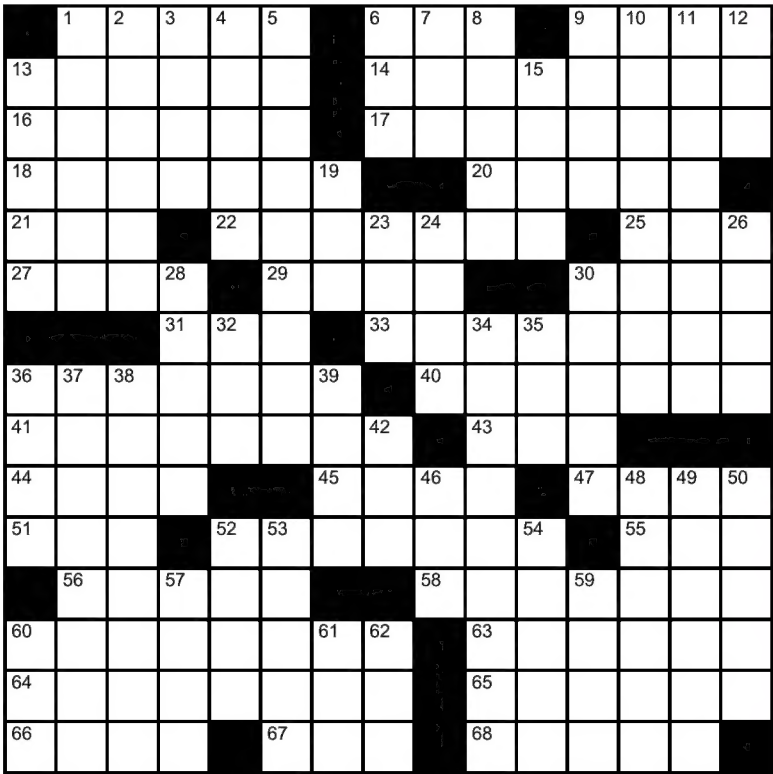
Chemical Compounds

by Barbara Olson  
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

- Across
- 1 Talks like an ass?
  - 6 \_\_\_ hangers (Harley's high handlebars)
  - 9 Use a ship's hold
  - 13 Course needed to continue
  - 14 Not ready to dive right in
  - 16 Canal skated on in Ottawa
  - 17 Gold seasonings?
  - 18 Writer of fan mail
  - 20 Units symbolized by the Greek epsilon
  - 21 Fam. girl on a fam. tree
  - 22 Sodium smell?
  - 25 NHLer between wingers: Abbr.
  - 27 The "O" in R.E.O. cars
  - 29 Do really bad body work?
  - 30 Piece of work for a cobbler
  - 31 Prov. known for its 2-Down
  - 33 Copper evaluating?
  - 36 Least cluttered
  - 40 Mexican shawls
  - 41 Tin allergy symptoms?
  - 43 What's the \_\_\_? ("Same thing")
  - 44 Handheld appt. reminders
  - 45 "... banks of \_\_\_ Lomond"
  - 47 Suffix with snore, slug or summer
  - 51 Jewish Sat.
  - 52 Iron product brands?
  - 55 Top student's pride, for short
  - 56 Bachelorette rule
  - 58 Skips the dishes without SkipTheDishes
  - 60 Silver trash?
  - 63 Be locked into a cell plan?
  - 64 Do the same dull job year after year
  - 65 Correction tape alternative
  - 66 Canucks mascot Fin the Whale, for one
  - 67 Sesquicentennial's 150: Abbr.
  - 68 Money coaching topics

- Down
- 1 Concerning the wife-to-be
  - 2 "Bud the Spud from the bright \_\_\_" (Stompin' Tom Connors song lyric)

- 3 "Whose woods these \_\_\_ think ...": Frost
- 4 Long (for)
- 5 Easily nauseated
- 6 "Take On Me" band
- 7 "\_\_\_ importe" (French "no matter")
- 8 Ruhr River valley hub
- 9 Soup recipe direction
- 10 Salsa scooper
- 11 Fourteen pounds, in Britain
- 12 Birth record figs.
- 13 Where artists hang in Madrid
- 15 "Where did \_\_\_ my keys?"
- 19 Mandela's ctry.
- 23 U.S. President, militarily
- 24 Cassowaries' cousins
- 26 Rules and \_\_\_
- 28 What an angry llama does
- 30 Moses costume accessory
- 32 Onetime overseas trade org.
- 34 Like Archie Andrews and Alfred E. Neuman
- 35 Fragrance by pop's Grande
- 36 5-ml. scoops
- 37 Not safe
- 38 Devilishly wicked
- 39 Subtle giveaway in poker
- 42 "Yes, \_\_\_ heard"
- 46 Summer fair in T.O.
- 48 One taking self-love to the extreme
- 49 Whitecap froths
- 50 \_\_\_ Tots
- 52 Cheese often sold in brine
- 53 Bit of log book writing
- 54 Seller's market?
- 57 "Dracula" woman Harker
- 59 Attempt, casually
- 60 \_\_\_ system (blood typing system)
- 61 Iceland's cont.
- 62 Twitter shares, for short



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7		3			2	6		9
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6		4	9					
3		9		4	8			
	7					9	4	
			1	7		3	8	
		7			5	2		
8				1		4		
		5					6	







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IT TAKES A TEAM.



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